

## ***EPA's Mission and Purpose***

The mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is to protect human health and to safeguard the natural environment--air, water, and land--upon which life depends. EPA's purpose is to ensure that:

- All Americans are protected from significant risks to human health and the environment where they live, learn, and work.
- National efforts to reduce environmental risk are based on the best available scientific information.
- Federal laws protecting human health and the environment are enforced fairly and effectively.
- Environmental protection is an integral consideration in U.S. policies concerning natural resources, human health, economic growth, energy, transportation, agriculture, industry, and international trade, and these factors are similarly considered in establishing environmental policy.
- All parts of society--communities, individuals, business, state and local governments, and tribal governments--have access to accurate information sufficient to effectively participate in managing human health and environmental risks.
- Environmental protection contributes to making our communities and ecosystems diverse, sustainable, and economically productive.
- The United States plays a leadership role in working with other nations to protect the global environment.

## ***EPA's Goals***

EPA has developed a series of ten strategic, long-term Goals in its Strategic Plan. These goals, together with the underlying principles that will be used to achieve them, define the Agency's planning, budgeting, analysis, and accountability process.

**\$ Clean Air:** The air in every American community will be safe and healthy to breathe. In particular, children, the elderly, and people with respiratory ailments will be protected from health risks of breathing polluted air. Reducing air pollution will also protect the environment, resulting in many benefits, such as restoring life in damaged ecosystems and reducing health risks to those whose subsistence depends directly on those ecosystems.

**\$ Clean and Safe Water:** All Americans will have drinking water that is clean and safe to drink. Effective protection of America's rivers, lakes, wetlands, aquifers, and coastal and ocean waters will sustain fish, plants, and wildlife, as well as recreational, subsistence, and economic activities. Watersheds and their aquatic ecosystems will be restored and protected to improve public health, enhance water quality, reduce flooding, and provide habitat for wildlife.

\$ **Safe Food:** The foods Americans eat will be free from unsafe pesticide residues. Children especially will be protected from the health threats posed by pesticide residues, because they are among the most vulnerable groups in our society.

\$ **Preventing Pollution and Reducing Risk in Communities, Homes, Workplaces and Ecosystems:** Pollution prevention and risk management strategies aimed at cost-effectively eliminating, reducing, or minimizing emissions and contamination will result in cleaner and safer environments in which all Americans can reside, work, and enjoy life. EPA will safeguard ecosystems and promote the health of natural communities that are integral to the quality of life in this nation.

\$ **Better Waste Management, Restoration of Contaminated Waste Sites, and Emergency Response:** America's wastes will be stored, treated, and disposed of in ways that prevent harm to people and to the natural environment. EPA will work to clean up previously polluted sites, restoring them to uses appropriate for surrounding communities, and respond to and prevent waste-related or industrial accidents.

\$ **Reduction of Global and Cross-Border Environmental Risks:** The United States will lead other nations in successful, multilateral efforts to reduce significant risks to human health and ecosystems from climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, and other hazards of international concern.

\$ **Expansion of Americans' Right to Know About Their Environment:** Easy access to a wealth of information about the state of their local environment will expand citizen involvement and give people tools to protect their families and their communities as they see fit. Increased information exchange between scientists, public health officials, businesses, citizens, and all levels of government will foster greater knowledge about the environment and what can be done to protect it.

\$ **Sound Science, Improved Understanding of Environmental Risk, and Greater Innovation to Address Environmental Problems:** EPA will develop and apply the best available science for addressing current and future environmental hazards, as well as new approaches toward improving environmental protection.

\$ **A Credible Deterrent to Pollution and Greater Compliance with the Law:** EPA will ensure full compliance with laws intended to protect human health and the environment.

\$ **Effective Management:** EPA will establish a management infrastructure that will set and implement the highest quality standards for effective internal management and fiscal responsibility.

## ***Overview of the FY 2000 Annual Plan***

***For nearly three decades, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and its partners have made significant strides in controlling***

The FY 2000 Annual Plan requests \$7.207<sup>1</sup> billion in discretionary budget authority, and 18,406 FTE. In addition, the President's 2000 request includes \$200.0 million in mandatory budgetary authority for Superfund orphan shares, and \$1.9 billion in bond authority for new "Better America Bonds." The FY 2000 Annual Plan request will help build strong, healthy communities for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. This budget proposal is built on the principle that a healthy environment and a healthy economy go hand in hand.

### ***Building Livable Communities through "Better America Bonds"***

EPA will play a key role in implementing the "Better America Bonds" program, which is a major component of the Administration's Livability Initiative. These bonds will help state and local governments take the initiative in safeguarding their land and water for future generations. Since 1960, urban sprawl has consumed 1.5 million acres of farmland annually. This initiative will help state and local governments to preserve open space, protect water quality, and clean up abandoned industrial sites.

This initiative will provide \$9.5 billion in bond authority over five years

***pollution and other environmental risks to human health and the environment. The air, land, and water are now safer for all Americans due to our Nation's investment in environmental protection.***

(\$1.9 billion in FY 2000) for investments by state and local communities, resulting in Federal tax credits of almost \$700 million over the next five years. These bonds will help communities preserve green space for attractive, livable communities and promote sustainable economic development. This innovative financial tool will be a model for future environmental protection by giving communities the flexibility they need to direct resources to their most pressing environmental needs.

### ***Clean Air Partnership Fund***

One of the Administration's most important public health commitments is to improve the air that Americans breathe. Over one third of Americans still live in areas where the air does not meet the new air quality standards. This budget includes \$200.0 million in new funding for a Clean Air Partnership Fund. This fund will provide new grant resources and opportunities for cities, states and tribes to partner with the private sector, the federal government and each other to provide healthy, clean air in the communities in which we live.

The Clean Air Partnership Fund will demonstrate locally managed programs that achieve early integrated

reductions in soot, smog, air toxics and greenhouse gases. The Fund will direct new resources to state and local governments to find the most innovative, cost-effective and protective ways to reduce soot, smog, air toxics and greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change.

The Air Toxics program will develop tools and data that will allow the Agency to move the program from an almost exclusively technology based program to a risk-based program with a significant focus on urban air toxics. The Air Toxics program has been provided with approximately \$18 million in new funding. The recent Cumulative Exposure Project (CEP) indicates that concentrations of air toxics may be high in almost every area of the country, especially in and around urban areas. The air toxics program is geared to reduce risks for people who live and work in urban areas, that include a disproportionate number of poor and minority Americans. It will bring increased protection to a large number of sensitive populations, such as children and the elderly.

### ***Meeting the Climate Change Challenge***

Furthermore, this Annual Plan includes approximately \$216 million for EPA's portion of the Climate Change Technology Initiative (CCTI). This multi-agency program continues the Administration's commitment to address the significant threat that global warming poses to public health and the environment. This is the second year of the Administration's five-year commit-

ment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through partnerships with businesses, schools, state and local governments, other organizations, and investments in energy efficient technologies and tax incentives for consumers who purchase energy efficient products.

### ***Protecting Children's Health***

One of the Clinton-Gore Administration's highest priorities has been, and continues to be, protecting the health of our children – giving them a healthier start in life. Children are among the most vulnerable members of society. As part of the government-wide interagency initiative on children's asthma, EPA is taking a leadership role in reducing children's exposure to asthma-causing toxins in our environment. President Clinton has provided an additional \$17 million dollars for children's asthma for education, outreach, research, and air monitoring activities. An increase of \$12 million dollars in funding is for science activities that focus on other chronic childhood afflictions and ailments, such as cancer and developmental disorders.

### ***Ensuring Clean and Safe Water***

This budget supports EPA's efforts to clean up and restore our Nation's rivers, lakes and coastal waters, as well as its restoration of watersheds across the country, with \$630 million for the Clean Water Action Plan (CWAP), a multi-Agency initiative to protect the Nation's watersheds and promote clean water, and an additional \$21 million in

related funding. A key focus of the Plan is to reduce non-point source pollution, and this budget includes \$200 million for non-point source grants.

EPA's FY 2000 Annual Plan also includes a proposal that will allow states greater flexibility to address their most pressing water quality problems.

The proposal will give states the option to set aside up to 20 percent of their FY 2000 Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) allotment for making grants for implementation of non-point source pollution and estuary management projects. Pollution from non-point sources is now the leading cause of water pollution. These sources of pollution are harder to identify and control than those associated with point sources.

In addition, although the CWSRF shows a decrease from the previous year, the Administration is still on track to meet its goal for the CWSRF to provide an average of \$2.0 billion in annual financial assistance. A total of almost \$16 billion has already been provided to capitalize the CWSRF, almost 90 percent more than originally authorized by Congress (the program was scheduled to end in 1994).

The Administration is also on track to meet its goal for the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF), to provide an average of \$500 million a year, and has proposed a \$50 million increase for the DWSRF in FY 2000.

A \$50 million increase is provided for water and wastewater projects along the U.S./Mexico Border. With these resources, the Agency provides direct grant assistance to address the environmental and public health problems associated with untreated industrial and municipal sewage on the Border.

### ***Empowering Citizens with Knowledge about their Environment***

The Agency is committed to enabling citizens to assess the risks posed by their specific environments and allow them to make better decisions on how to handle those risks. This budget includes an investment of \$13.5 million additional dollars in the Chemical Right-to-Know Initiative, which will ensure that the public has basic health data for industrial chemicals released in their communities due to a voluntary partnership with industry. Through this and other Right-to-Know programs supported by the Agency, Americans will have unprecedented access to information. As a further step in our commitment to improving and expanding access to information, we are pioneering a new Information Office which will advocate the use and management of information as a strategic resource to enhance public health and environmental protection.

### ***Cleaning up Toxic Waste Sites***

The FY 2000 Annual Plan continues a commitment to clean up toxic waste sites with \$1.5 billion for Superfund cleanups, and \$200 million in

mandatory spending authority for Superfund orphan shares, to reduce the effect of uncontrolled releases on local populations and sensitive environments. The Agency will continue to address clean-up efforts at over 89 percent of Superfund sites. Combined with continuing administrative reforms, these funds will help meet the President's pledge to complete the clean up of two-thirds of Superfund hazardous waste sites by 2002.

### ***Revitalizing Communities through the Brownfields Initiative***

The FY 2000 Annual Plan continues the President's Brownfields initiative, which promotes local cleanup and redevelopment of industrial sites, bringing jobs to blighted areas. This budget includes \$91.7 million for technical assistance and grants to communities for site assessment and redevelopment planning, as well as revolving loan funds to finance clean-up efforts at the local level. Through 2000, EPA will have funded Brownfields site assessment pilots in 350 communities.

### ***Strengthening Tribal Partnerships***

The Agency continues its commitment to tribal programs with a total request of \$165.8 million. New funding will provide tribes with program and technical assistance and will assure that tribes have adequate information with which to make environmental decisions. In addition, the President's Budget proposes to eliminate the current statutory ceiling on grant funds that may be awarded to tribes for non-point source

activities under the Clean Water Act (CWA). This is especially significant since there is increasing demand for the limited pool of tribal grant funds.

### ***Summary***

EPA's FY 2000 Annual Plan moves our Nation forward with innovative, common sense, cost-effective programs to ensure strong and healthy communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by addressing environmental problems through innovative programs and focusing on high-risk areas. The budget

continues our commitment to partnerships, good stewardship and strong leadership in the Nation's efforts for a clean, safe and healthy environment.

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<sup>1</sup> Does not include a \$20.0 million offset for user fees.